

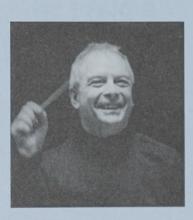
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Mozart, Levin & Haydn

Christopher Hogwood, Conductor Robert Levin, Harpsichord/Fortepiano

Handel & Haydn Society Orchestra

April 17 & 19, 1998 Symphony Hall, Boston Season



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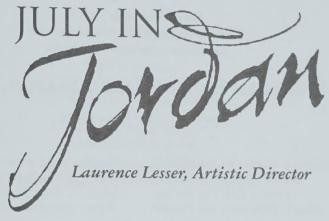
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From left to right: Anner Bylsma, Stanley Ritchie, and Paula Robison with Cyro Baptista







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Handel & Haydn Society Christopher Hogwood, Artistic Director John Finney, Associate Conductor 1997–1998 Season

Friday, April 17, 1998 at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m. Symphony Hall, Boston

Christopher Hogwood, Conductor Robert Levin, Harpsichord and Fortepiano

Symphony No. 96 in D Major, "The Miracle" [1791]

Adagio—Allegro Andante Menuetto—Allegretto Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in F Major, K. 37 [1767]

Allegro Andante Allegro Wolfgang Amadè Mozart (1756–1791)

-INTERMISSION-

Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-Flat Major, K. 595 [1791]

Allegro Larghetto Allegro Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

Symphony No. 96 in D Major, "The Miracle" [1791] Finale—Vivace Franz Joseph Haydn

CHRISTOPHER HOGWOOD, CONDUCTOR



One of the world's most active conductors, Christopher Hogwood is an internationally recognized pioneer in historically informed performance, presenting music on the instruments and with the performing styles of the period in which it was com-

posed. He is the founder of The Academy of Ancient Music, the first British orchestra formed to play Baroque and Classical music on instruments appropriate to the period. He shares with that orchestra a busy schedule of performances, touring,

and recording. In addition to being H&H's Artistic Director, Mr. Hogwood is Principal Guest Conductor of The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Artistic Director of the annual Mozart Festival in Washington D.C., and Associate Director of the Beethoven Academie in Antwerp. He is active conducting opera throughout the world and on recordings, and is a regular guest of the Australian Opera in Sydney, where he recently conducted Gluck's Iphegénie en Tauride. Mr. Hogwood performs as a harpsichordist and clavichord player, and records for London Records/L'Oiseau-Lyre, Philips, Chandos, and Deutsche Harmonia Mundi. He has also made his mark in the fields of television and video, and as a popular radio broadcaster. He has written a number of books, including an acclaimed biography of Handel.

ROBERT LEVIN, HARPSICHORD AND FORTEPIANO



Pianist Robert Levin, renowned for his improvised embellishments and cadenzas in Classical-period repertoire, has been heard throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and in Asia. He has performed with the orchestras of Berlin,

Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Montreal, Utah, and Vienna on the Steinway with conductors including Bernard Haitink, Sir Neville Marriner, Sir Simon Rattle, and Joseph Silverstein. On fortepiano he has appeared with The Academy of Ancient Music, the London Classical Players, the English Baroque Soloists, and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique

with conductors Christopher Hogwood, Sir Roger Norrington, and John Eliot Gardiner. season, London-L'Oiseau Lyre is releasing the fifth and sixth discs in Levin's complete Mozart concerto cycle with Christopher Hogwood and The Academy of Ancient Music; and DG Archiv will issue the final recording of his Beethoven concerto cycle with John Eliot Gardiner and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, containing the Third and Fourth Concertos. Mr. Levin's active career as a chamber musician includes long associations with the violist Kim Kashkashian and the New York Philomusica. In addition to his performing activities, Mr. Levin is a noted theorist and Mozart scholar, and is the author of a number of articles and essays on Mozart. His completions of Mozart fragments are published, recorded, and performed throughout the world. He is the Dwight P. Robinson, Jr. Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University.

THE HANDEL & HAYDN SOCIETY

The Handel & Haydn Society is America's premier chorus and period orchestra. Under the artistic direction of conductor Christopher Hogwood since 1986, H&H has become a leader in historically informed performance. Each H&H concert is distinguished by the use of instruments, techniques, and performance styles typical of the period in which the music was composed. Founded in Boston in 1815, H&H is the oldest continuously performing arts organization in the country, with a long tradition of musical excellence. In the nineteenth century, the Society gave the American premieres of several Baroque and Classical works, including Handel's Messiah (1818), which H&H has performed every vear since 1854, Samson (1845), Solomon (1855), and Israel in Egypt (1859), and Bach's Mass in B Minor (1887) and St. Matthew Passion (1889). In recent years, H&H has achieved widespread acclaim through recordings on the London Records/L'Oiseau-Lyre label, national broadcasts. and performances across North America. H&H made its European debut in 1996 with a fully staged production of Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice with Mark Morris and the Mark Morris Dance Group at the Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland. In addition to performances at Boston's Symphony Hall, H&H also offers concerts at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall, most often under the direction of Associate Conductor John Finney. H&H's innovative educational outreach program brings the joy of classical music to more than 7,000 students every year in 47 schools throughout Massachusetts.

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THE GENIUS OF MOZART AND HAYDN

Robert Mealy

Johann Christian Gottlieb Graupner (1767-1836), an accomplished musician, played oboe in Haydn's London orchestra. He appeared in the premiere performances of Haydn's twelve "London" symphonies, including Symphony No. 96, "The Miracle," heard on this program. Mr. Graupner and his wife, Catherine Comerford Hillier, an English actress and opera singer, moved to Boston after 1796 and opened a music store on Franklin Street. In 1810. he helped form the Philharmonic Society, whose sixteen members practiced symphonies on Saturday evenings led by Mr. Graupner on double bass. For many years he organized and directed theater organizations in Boston, and he played a significant role in the formation of the Handel & Haydn Society, founded in 1815.

Wolfgang Amadè Mozart's closest musical companion. It served as the vehicle for his dazzling displays of ability when, as a child prodigy touring the courts of Europe, he would improvise for hours, play blindfolded, and submit to whatever tests were given him by the astonished experts. Later, in what were to be his most brilliant years in Vienna, the keyboard was his partner in a series of masterpieces that transformed both his career and the genre they belonged to: that of the keyboard concerto.

Mozart had his first encounter with the concerto at an early age when, shortly after returning from their lengthy European tour, he and his father decided to adapt some of the latest Parisian sonatas into four "Concertos per il clavicembalo," as a good introduction to the genre and with an eye toward a concerto repertoire for the eleven-year-old virtuoso. For the first of these, Wolfgang (or quite possibly Leopold) selected several movements by two composers he

had recently met in Paris, otherwise nearly forgotten but estimable fellow Teutons, named Hermann Friedrich Raupach and Leontzi Honauer. These men and the Mozarts may well have come together through the great polymath Melchior Grimm, who mentions in his Corréspondance littéraire that Wolfgang matched musical wits with Raupach, a "habile musicien qui improvise avec une grande supériorité." Raupach ended up in Paris during an eight-year interregnum in his St. Petersburg career, and while he was there published a set of Six Sonates pour le Clavecin avec accompagnement de Violon in 1765. Honauer, a Strasbourgeois who had migrated to Paris some time previously, produced several volumes of similar works. Both were part of a new wave of German musicians who (according to the admittedly biased Leopold) were writing the only interesting music in Paris in the 1760s, in the new galant style of singing melodies, uncomplicated harmonies, and elegantly constructed movements.

Upon their return to Salzburg, the Mozarts set down to transform these souvenirs de voyage into concertos, keeping the original movements largely intact as the solo episodes and weaving the concerto form around them. Wolfgang (with his father looking on) is ingenious about these adaptations. The first movement of Keyboard Concerto No. 1, K. 37, for example, takes its opening from the violin accompaniment to one of Raupach's sonatas, so that when the soloist does enter with Raupach's original keyboard part, it is already presenting a greatly enriched version of the same material. The Mozarts also elect to expand Raupach's development section in this movement from a meager five bars into a sixteenmeasure solo episode, incorporating all the modulations that Raupach originally included in his recapitulation. The soloist ends with another expansion of the original, a brilliant passage of arpeggiation that seems here to substitute for a final cadenza. The second movement is the only one in this set of four concertos whose source has yet to be attributed. A very galant Andante, it concerns itself with elegant sighing figures and delicate passagework. The concerto closes with

what was originally an allegro by Honauer. (All the cadenzas you will hear tonight will be improvised by Mr. Levin, as Handel & Haydn Society audiences have come to enjoy. Though based on the material presented in each movement, each one is entirely spontaneous and unrepeatable, and hence, in

all senses, perfectly authentic.)

Following Mozart's initial foray into the field of the keyboard concerto, we turn to his very last in a long stream of works that made this genre particularly his own. The fortepiano came into its own in Vienna just around the time Mozart was arriving on the scene, and it proved to be the ideal vehicle for himself, as composer and keyboard virtuoso. "Academies" at private homes became a staple of Mozart's performing life for several years during the Lenten season when the theaters were closed. and subscribers to these concert series could have the pleasure of regularly hearing Mozart play his very latest

concertos. Not that just anyone could buy these tickets. The subscription lists of these series are heavily dominated by the very highest nobility of Vienna, making up a Who's Who of the upper class. Mozart's subscription list from the 1784 season, for example, consisted of 174 patrons, who all paid six florins apiece for a series of three concerts (roughly \$400). Of these, half were from the highest nobility, 42 percent were lesser nobles or members of the upper middle class who had bought titles; only eight per cent were members of the bourgeoisie.

These concertos enact a relation between the soloist and the group which is often playful, sometimes outrageous, always ingenious; they also enacted a relation between Mozart the soloist and his aristocratic audience. As Joseph Kerman put it, "in one Mozartean comedic fiction, Tamino sues and wins entrance to the social order by playing on his magic flute. In seventeen others, Amadeus plays the fortepiano." By the end of the

1780s, this fiction was beginning to wear thin. For whatever reason, and there are many, Mozart was no longer a favorite of his rich clients. Perhaps it was true, as he had been warned, that "the Viennese want something new." But the economy had also changed, and the Turkish war was taking up much of

war was taking up much of the attention and funds of the upper classes. Inflation was rampant, the nobility were either called up to the front or retreating to their country estates, and the large orchestras that were a staple of noble households were breaking up. Subscription concerts were no longer the thing, and though Mozart continued to perform for the aristocracy on occasion, he gave up writing piano concertos entirely between 1788 and 1791, turning his musical attention instead to other, more profitable genres.

The piano concerto which was to be Mozart's last, K. 595, was entered into his *Verzeichnis*, or catalogue of his compositions, on

January 5, 1791, although paper studies indicate that Mozart sketched it out much earlier, for a possible subscription series in 1788. (Contrary to popular myth, Mozart's compositions were not always completed in a kind of automatic writing; in fact, many more sketches survive than one might expect.) It has generally been believed that the first performance of this concerto was in March 1791, at a benefit for clarinetist Joseph Beer given in the hall belonging to the Court Caterer Ignaz Jahn. (Mozart's sister-in-law and first love Aloysia Lange also sang in this concert.) This was to be Mozart's last public appearance as a soloist. But Mozart rarely finished concertos months before they were due, and recent scholarship has unearthed another possible premiere, one much closer to the date in his catalogue.

That winter, the King and Queen of Naples were making a state visit to Vienna, and several of the festivities included "musical academies" or (to us) concerts. One of these, on January 9th, made



Wolfgang Amadè Mozart

it into the diary of Count Karl von Zinzendorf, who remarked that "today their Neapolitan Majesties will be at Prince Adam Auersperg's, where the King will sing and Mlle. Ployer will play the piano." Barbara (or Babette) von Ployer was a talented pianist for whom Mozart had already composed two concertos, K. 449 and K. 453. Given the proximity of this performance to the completion of a new concerto, it is tempting to think that Mozart's model student was the first to bring this wonderful discourse between piano and orchestra to light.

Although it is difficult for us now not to read last thoughts into the clarity and directness that mark many of Mozart's last works, we must remember that this "late style" was one which he fully expected to mine for many years to come. Piano Concerto No. 27, K. 595, like the clarinet concerto that followed it, is marked by an intimacy and generosity of expression that is characteristic of much of his work from 1791. Its expansive first movement even has room for a bar of quiet accompaniment before the first theme is announced in the strings. This, and its answers from the winds, provides the topic for the first solo excursion, but not before the orchestra presents a variety of other richly contrasting themes, including a particularly delicious closing subject. All is put to remarkable use in the course of the movement, which goes through some breathtaking harmonic swerves while working out its wealth of ideas. The radiant second movement is a testament to the new simplicity that Mozart achieved in what was to be, tragically, his last year; especially noteworthy is the final appearance of the main theme, in bare octaves between the piano, flute, and first violins. The work closes with a rondo, whose theme is that of a little song about springtime that Mozart entered just after this concerto in his catalogue; alas, this was to be the last spring he saw.

A few weeks before he entered the last piano concerto into his catalogue, Mozart had a farewell dinner with his dear friend Franz Joseph Haydn, who was off to England. Haydn had recently been liberated from indenture to Prince Nicholas Esterházy by the death of his longtime patron, and was promptly signed up by the violinist and impresario John Peter Salomon, who arrived on Haydn's doorstep with the announcement "I am Salomon of London. I have me to fetch you."

Salomon was also very interested in Mozart, as were many at that moment. Already in September of 1790 a letter from another English impresario, the director of the Haymarket Theatre, had arrived for "Monsieur Mozart Célèbre Compositeur de Musique à Vienne," asking him to come to London in December to create two new operas. Mozart had been sorely tempted by England in the past. After all, one of the greatest musical heroes of his childhood was the "London Bach," Johann Christian, and some of his best companions in Vienna were English: Michael Kelly (the original Basilio in The Marriage of Figaro), Mozart's pupil Thomas Attwood, and the Storaces, Stephen and his sister Nancy, who was the original Susanna. These friends came very near to luring him away in 1786, and a notice that "the famous Compositeur Hr. Mozart intends to travel to London next spring" even appeared in a Prague newspaper. But Leopold violently refused to take charge of the Mozarts's two children, and so the escape from Vienna came to nothing.

Mozart in London is one of music's great what-ifs. Vincent Novello, after interviewing Constanze about Mozart's death, remarked that "incomparable as his works are, I have not the least doubt but that he would have written still finer things such as Oratorios and other extensive works (of the Epic class) had he lived." This, of course, was exactly what his close friend and colleague Joseph Haydn went on to do in England, where he received a hero's welcome. Haydn wrote to his dear friend Maria von Genzinger on January 8, 1791, to announce that "my arrival caused a great sensation throughout the whole city, and I went the round of all the newspapers for three successive days ... all this was very flattering to me, and yet I wished I could fly for a time to Vienna, to have more quiet in which to work, for the noise that the common people make as they sell their wares in the street is intolerable. At present I am working on symphonies, because the libretto of the opera is not yet decided on ... "

One of the symphonies he had begun was to be the "new grand overture" featured in the first of Salomon's concerts, which had its much-delayed premiere on March 11, 1791. This is what we now know as his Symphony 96, dubbed "the Miracle." (If we are to believe one contemporary account, the audience stood for the first movement in Haydn's honor.) A slow introduction sets the

stage for the opening allegro, which is full of surprises, the best of which happens toward the end, when we expect the recapitulation of the opening: it finally comes, after eight beats of silence, but it's in entirely the wrong key! This is the sort of structural wit native to Haydn's genius, a play with the harmonic rules that even those who don't know the rules are delighted by. One review the next day reported aptly that the symphony was "universally deemed a composition as pleasing as scientific."

The slow movement, which at the premiere so caught the public's imagination that it was repeated, has the unexpected element of a kind of written-out cadenza serving as the last statement of the theme. The use of solo strings here would have been emphasized by the placement of the performers in the original performance: one observer, Charlotte Papendiek, remarked that "in

the hollow of the piano [there was] a desk on a high platform for Salomon with his ripieno." The ingeniously extended Menuetto is followed by a purely Viennese Trio, a landler for solo oboe and strings. The work ends with a brisk and witty Finale. Haydn made a special note of this movement when he sent his new works back to Maria von Genzinger in Vienna: "please tell Herr von Keess that I ask him respectfully to have a rehearsal of both these Symphonies, because they are very delicate, especially the last movement of that in D Major, for which I recommend the softest piano and a very quick tempo."

—Scholar and performer Robert Mealy has recorded and toured with many period-instrument ensembles, including Sequentia, the King's Noyse, Les Arts Florissants, the Boston Camerata, and the Handel & Haydn Society.

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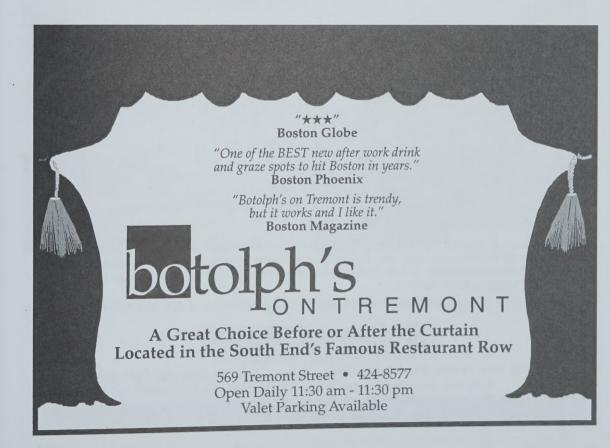


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